

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 THE HA 02162 281016Z

15

ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 /020 W

----- 073811

P 280941Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5783

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 2162

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, NL

SUBJECT: DEN UYL VISIT: EVALUATIVE COMMENTS AND  
PERSONAL DATA ON FOREIGN POLICY AND DEFENSE  
ADVISOR JOOP MERCKELBACH

REF: STATE 088530

1. MERCKELBACH WAS BORN SEPTEMBER 1, 1935, IN MAASTRICHT, IS MARRIED AND HAS THREE YOUNG CHILDREN. FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF HIS LAW STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NIJMEGEN IN 1963 HE JOINED GOVERNMENT SERVICE AS A JURIDICAL SPECIALIST OF THE CIVIL DEFENSE STAFF. IN 1966 HE BECAME ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. IN 1972 HE WAS PROMOTED TO HIS PRESENT POSITION AS ADVISOR IN THE CABINET OF THE MINISTER-PRESIDENT (PRIME MINISTER) FOR FOREIGN POLICY, DEFENSE, CIVIL DEFENSE AND FOR POLICY CONCERNING SURINAM AND THE NETHERLAND ANTILLES. CONCURRENTLY HE SERVES AS SECRETARY OF THE GENERAL DEFENSE COUNCIL, OF THE COUNCIL FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMISSION FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF SURINAM.

2. PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS AND VIEWS: MERCKELBACH IS A BIG, RATHER HANDSOME MAN WHO LOOKS SOMEWHAT OLDER THAN HIS 39 YEARS BECAUSE HE HAS LOST MOST OF DARK HAIR. DELIBERATE IN HIS MOVEMENTS, INTELLIGENT AND THOUGHTFUL, MERCKELBACH TAKES A LITTLE KNOWING BEFORE HE BECOMES FULLY COMMUNICATIVE. WHILE LESS FLUENT IN ENGLISH THAN MOST FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS, MERCKELBACH CAN EXPRESS  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 THE HA 02162 281016Z

HIMSELF CLEARLY; HIS UNDERSTANDING OF ENGLISH IS INHIBITED

IF HE IS SPOKEN TO TOO RAPIDLY. HE IS A FRIENDLY, UNPRE-  
TENTIOUS PERSON, SOUND AND SOLID RATHER THAN BRILLIANT.  
HE COMES FROM A GOOD FAMILY, WHICH REFLECTS IN HIS  
COURTEOUS, ATTENTIVE APPROACH. SENSIBLE AND METHODICAL,  
HE APPEARS TO BE A VERY GOOD FAMILY MAN WITH A CHEERFUL  
SENSE OF HUMOR.

3. THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT MERCKELBACH'S ORIENTATION TO  
THE WDST AND NATO INCLUDING FEELINGS OF FRIENDSHIP AND  
ADMIRATION FOR THE UNITED STATES. MERCKELBACH WORKS FOR  
A PRIME MINISTER WHO IS A LIFE-LONG SOCIALIST, VERY  
MUCH A REFORMER ALTHOUGHT NOT A FANATIC. DEN UYL IN  
TURN HEADS A GOVERNMENT DEDICATED TO RESTRUCTURING DUTCH  
SOCIETY INCLUDING FURTHER LEVELING OF INCOMES AND TO  
HELPING TO CREATE THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER  
IN WHICH THE DEN UYL GOVERNMENT PROFESSES STRONGLY TO  
BELIEVE. IN THIS IDEOLOGICAL AMBIANCE MERCKELBACH COMES  
ACROSS AS NON-IDEOLOGICAL. LIKE MOST DUTCHMEN HE IS  
NOT RELUCTANT TO SEEK OPPORTUNITIES TO ADVANCE THE  
DUTCH NATIONAL INTERESTS BUT HIS CONCEPTION OF THOSE  
INTERESTS APPARENTLY DOES NOT INCLUDE THE RECTIFYING OF  
ALL THE WORLD'S INJUSTICES INCLUDING THE ALLEGED SINS  
OF AMERICAN CAPITALISM AND US FOREIGN POLICY.

4. RELATIONS WITH HIS BOSS: MERCKELBACH IS ONE OF THE  
FIVE OR SIX MEN IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S CABINET WHO SEES  
HIM ON A REGULAR, FREQUENT BASIS. WE ASSUME HE ENJOYS  
THE PRIME MINISTER'S CONFIDENCE AND IS ON THE SAME  
GENERAL WAVELENGTH WITH HIM. MERCKELBACH DOES NOT  
COMMENT TO US ON DEN UYL'S POLITICS. HIS ATTITUDE  
TOWARD DEN UYL COMES ACROSS AS LOYAL BUT UNPARTIAL. WE  
DO NOT KNOW TO WHAT EXTENT MERCKELBACH INFLUENCES THE  
PRIME MINISTER'S VIEWS ON FOREIGN POLICY AND DEFENSE  
MATTERS. HOWEVER, MERCKELBACH APPEARS TO HAVE DEVELOPED  
CONSIDERABLE EXPERTISE ON SURINAM AND THE NETHERLANDS  
ANTILLES, AND HAS ACCOMPANIED DEN UYL ON HIS RECENT  
VISITS TO THOSE COUNTRIES. HENCE IN THIS AREA MERCKEL-  
BACH IS PROBABLY MAKING AN INPUT INTO THE PRIME MINISTER'S  
THINKING. WE KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE THAT MERCKELBACH IS  
ABLE TO GET A PARTICULAR THOUGHT OR SUGGESTION FROM  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 THE HA 02162 281016Z

THE EMBASSY TO DEN UYL. WE SURMISE THAT OUR SEVERAL  
CONVERSATIONS WITH MERCKELBACH STARTING A YEAR AGO  
REGARDING THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF A DEN UYL VISIT TO  
WASHINGTON HAD SOME INFLUENCE ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S  
DECISION TO SEEK A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD.  
TANGUY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975THEHA02162  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750148-0159  
**From:** THE HAGUE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t1975049/aaaaaivs.tel  
**Line Count:** 113  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION INR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 088530  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 OCT 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; WITHDRAWN <10 JUN 2003 by WorrelSW, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <16 OCT 2003 by greeneet>; APPROVED <20 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEN UYL VISIT: EVALUATIVE COMMENTS AND PERSONAL DATA ON FOREIGN POLICY AND DEFENSE  
**TAGS:** PINR, NL, (UYL, JOHANNES DEN), (MERCKELBACH, JOOP)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006